

# Communicable Diseases

January-February 2010

Volume 3 Issue 1

## Monthly Newsletter For Joplin City and Jasper County

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### Briefs

#### Flu Activity

- According to CDC, flu activity, caused by either 2009 H1N1 or seasonal flu viruses, may rise and fall, but it is expected to continue for several more months.

#### CDC recommendations to fighting the flu:

- Vaccination;
- Practice daily preventive actions, including covering coughs and sneezes, frequent hand washing, and staying home when sick;
- Correct use of antiviral drugs if recommended by your doctor.

## CDC Estimates of 2009 H1N1 Influenza

When the 2009 H1N1 flu outbreak began in April 2009, CDC began tracking and reporting the number of laboratory-confirmed 2009 H1N1 cases, hospitalizations and deaths by states. These initial case counts (which were discontinued on July 24, 2009), and subsequent ongoing laboratory-confirmed reports of hospitalizations and deaths, are thought to represent a significant under-count of the actual number of 2009 H1N1 flu cases in the United States.

It is a challenging task to estimate the number of individual flu cases because many people with flu don't seek medical care and only a small number of those that seek care are tested. Additionally, under-reporting of hospitalizations and deaths occurs as well. For this reason CDC uses statistical modeling to estimate the burden of flu illness in the U.S as shown in table 1.

The table provides the CDC estimates of the 2009 H1N1 cases and related hospitalizations and deaths from April-December 12, 2009. To view each category by age, visit; [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/estimates\\_2009\\_h1n1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/estimates_2009_h1n1.htm)

Table 1

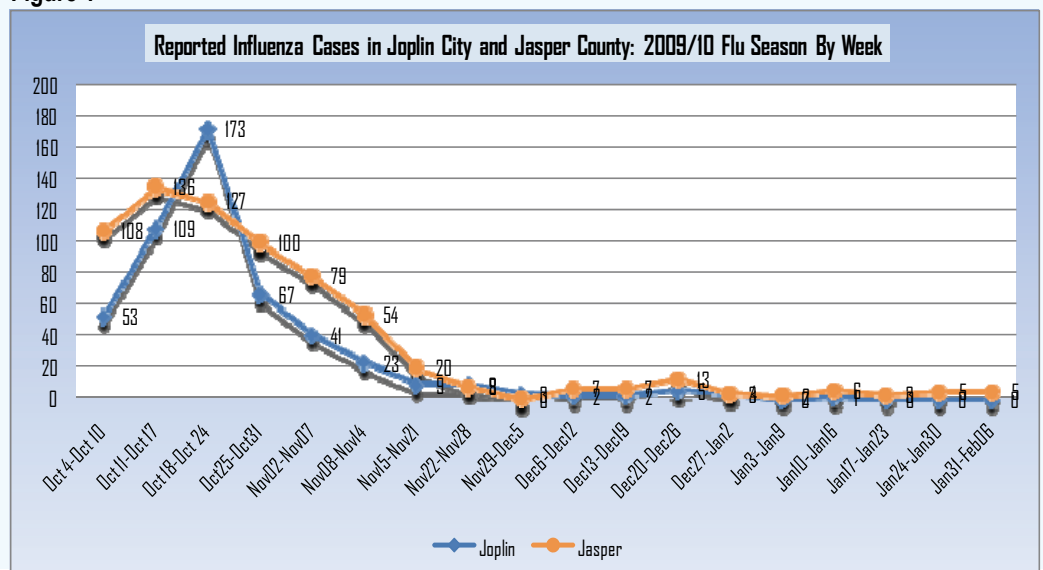
2009 H1N1	Mid-Level Range*	Estimated Range *
Total Cases	~55 million	~39 million to ~80 million
Total Hospitalizations	~246,000	~173,000 to ~362,000
Total Deaths	~11,160	~7,880 to ~16,460

Source: CDC

### Local Flu Surveillance

According to Joplin City /Jasper County flu surveillance, flu activity remained relatively low as of February 6, 2010. However, there were slight increases in respiratory-related illnesses in some local surveillance sites during the first and second weeks of February. According to CDC, flu activity may rise and fall but it is expected to continue for several more months.

Figure 1



Source: DHSS & Analyzed by Joplin/Jasper County Health Departments

# Communicable Diseases: Monthly Report

## Feature Disease/Condition

Table 2

### Cumulative Cases in January 2009 & 2010. (Includes confirmed, probable and suspect cases)

CONDITION / YEAR BY LPHA	JOPLIN		JASPER	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
ANIMAL BITES	16	3	9	16
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC IN	4	2	7	5
TB INFECTION	3	0	7	0
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	1	0	3	0
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	2	0	1	0
SALMONELLOSIS	3	0	0	0
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	0	0	2	1
MYCOBACTERIUM OTHER THAN TB	1	0	1	0
SHIGELLOSIS	0	2	0	0
E. COLI SHIGA TOXIN	0	0	1	0
GIARDIASIS	0	0	1	0
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE	0	0	1	0
HEPATITIS A ACUTE	0	0	0	1
HEPATITIS B PREGNANCY	0	0	1	0
HEPATITIS C ACUTE	1	0	0	0
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER	0	1	0	0

Source: Crystal Reports, MDHSS

### January 2009 vs. 2010

According to surveillance data represented in table 2, there were less cases reported in January 2010 than was reported in January 2009.

Animal bite reports in January 2010 represented the month's lowest number of cases in Joplin City and the highest in Jasper County in more than 5 years.

## Chicken Pox (Varicella)

Chicken pox is a disease caused by infection with a virus which causes fever and an itchy rash.

### Symptoms

A skin rash of blister-like lesions, covering the body but usually more concentrated on the face, scalp, and trunk. Most, but not all, infected individuals have fever, which develops just before or when the rash appears. If exposed, persons who have been vaccinated against the disease may get a milder illness, with less severe rash (sometimes involving only a few red bumps that look similar to insect bites) and mild or no fever.

### Complications

Bacterial infection of the skin, swelling of the brain, and pneumonia. Adolescents and adults are more at risk for severe disease.

### Transmission

Spread by coughing and sneezing (highly contagious), by direct contact etc

### Vaccine

Varicella vaccine can prevent this disease. Currently, two doses of vaccine are recommended for children, adolescents, and adults.

### Who Needs to be Vaccinated?

All children and adults without evidence of immunity need the vaccine. Evidence of immunity includes:

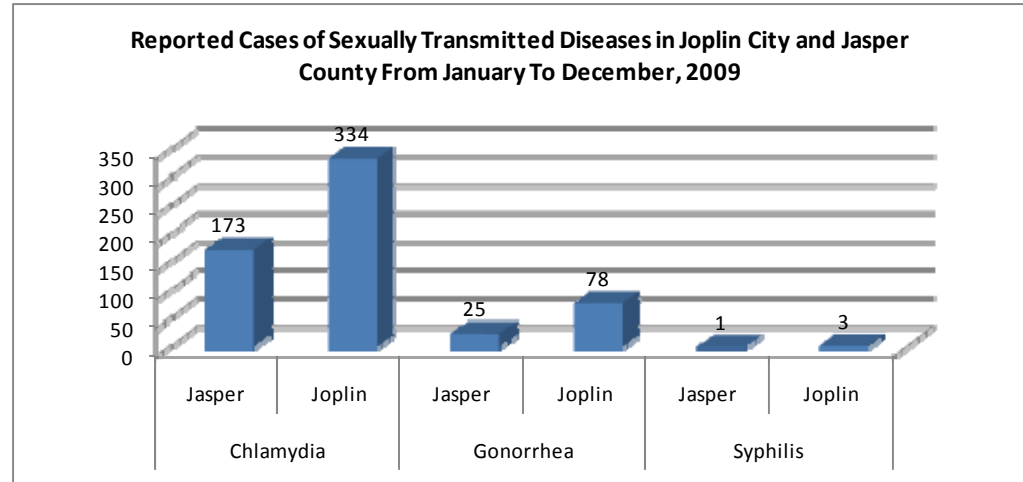
- ◆ Documentation of two doses of varicella vaccine
- ◆ Laboratory confirmation of prior disease
- ◆ Verification of a history of chickenpox or shingles.
- ◆ Born in the United States before 1980, excluding health-care workers, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune. These individuals need to meet one of the other criteria for evidence of immunity.

For more information, call your local health department or your healthcare provider.

Source CDC and Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

## Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Joplin/Jasper

Figure 2



Source: Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services. Analyzed by Joplin City /Jasper County Health Departments

### Local STD Trends

The 2009 data for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) in Joplin City and Jasper County is shown in figure 2 by category of STD. The 3 STDs reported were chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. The data was collected from January through December 2009.

The most common STD reported in both jurisdictions was chlamydia, followed by gonorrhea. During the year 2009, Joplin City had higher case rates than Jasper County (Figure 2).

In terms of gender, more women were reported to have been infected with both chlamydia and gonorrhea than men. Additionally, most of the cases were reported among 15-24 years age group followed by 25 through 40 years. There were few cases reported among those under 15 years and those over 40 years.

The peak month for all the three STDs in 2009 was in June. Chlamydia had a second peak in September.

### STD Testing at Joplin City and Jasper County Health Departments

Testing for chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and HIV is done at both Joplin City and Jasper County Health Departments at no charge.

For more information about testing information, contact Joplin Health Department at 417-623-6122 or Jasper County Health Department at 417-358-3111



### 2010 NATIONAL STD PREVENTION CONFERENCE



March 8-11  
**2010**  
Atlanta, GA

For more information about registration visit;

<http://www.cdc.gov/stdconference/2010/register.htm>

## Health Department Administrators

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For Questions, and/or Comments  
about this newsletter, please  
contact:

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## Trainings Opportunities / Events

### [NEW Environmental Public Health Specialist \(EPHS\) Training 2010 – March 9–10 in Jeff City](#)

Mandatory course for all new inspectors. If you were hired as an EPHS during 2007, 2008, or 2009 and you have not attended this course, you need to register. The course consists of two parts: an online course and a 2-day classroom course. If you have any questions please call 573-751-6095.

### [Principles of Epidemiology Course – April 21 & 22, July 21 & 22, or October 20 & 21, 2010.](#)

To register, contact [Rose.Kowieski@dhss.mo.gov](mailto:Rose.Kowieski@dhss.mo.gov)

### [2010 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE – July 27 – 28](#)

Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism (CERT) and will be held on July 27 – 28 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia. Watch your Friday Facts for additional information as it becomes available.

### [Software Applications & Data Sources in Public Health Course at Missouri State University](#)

The course provides a hands-on overview of commonly used software & databases in public health surveillance, program planning, research and analysis of morbidity and mortality data which include: EpiInfo, SPSS and/or Statistical Analysis System (SAS). For more information, contact Missouri Public Health Program office at Missouri State University 417-836-8850 or e-mail [ElizabethFederman@Missouristate.edu](mailto:ElizabethFederman@Missouristate.edu).

### [Online Graduate Certificate In Public Health Now Available From University Of Missouri](#)

The University of Missouri Public Health Program is now offering a 12 credit-hour online Graduate Certificate. For more info, visit: <http://publichealth.missouri.edu/certificate/index.php>. Contact person: Katherine Kirkpatrick, 573-884-6844 or [kirkpatrickkl@health.missouri.edu](mailto:kirkpatrickkl@health.missouri.edu).

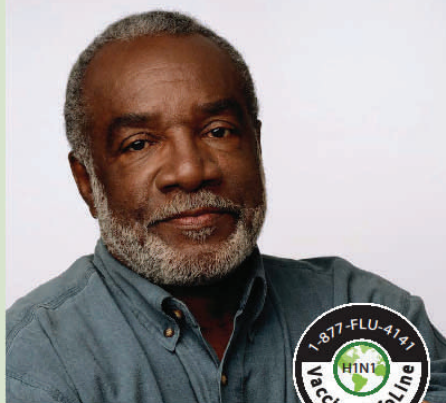
# It's not too late to get your flu shot!

## Protect yourself now before the flu season peaks in February



### H1N1 flu

has so far mainly affected young people, but people over 65 are more likely to develop severe complications if they do come down with the flu.



To locate a flu vaccination center near you, contact your Area Agency on Aging or your local health department.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services  
[www.dhss.mo.gov](http://www.dhss.mo.gov)

Funding provided by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, "I will try again tomorrow."**

**Quote by *Mary Anne Radmacher***